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MARCH 1979

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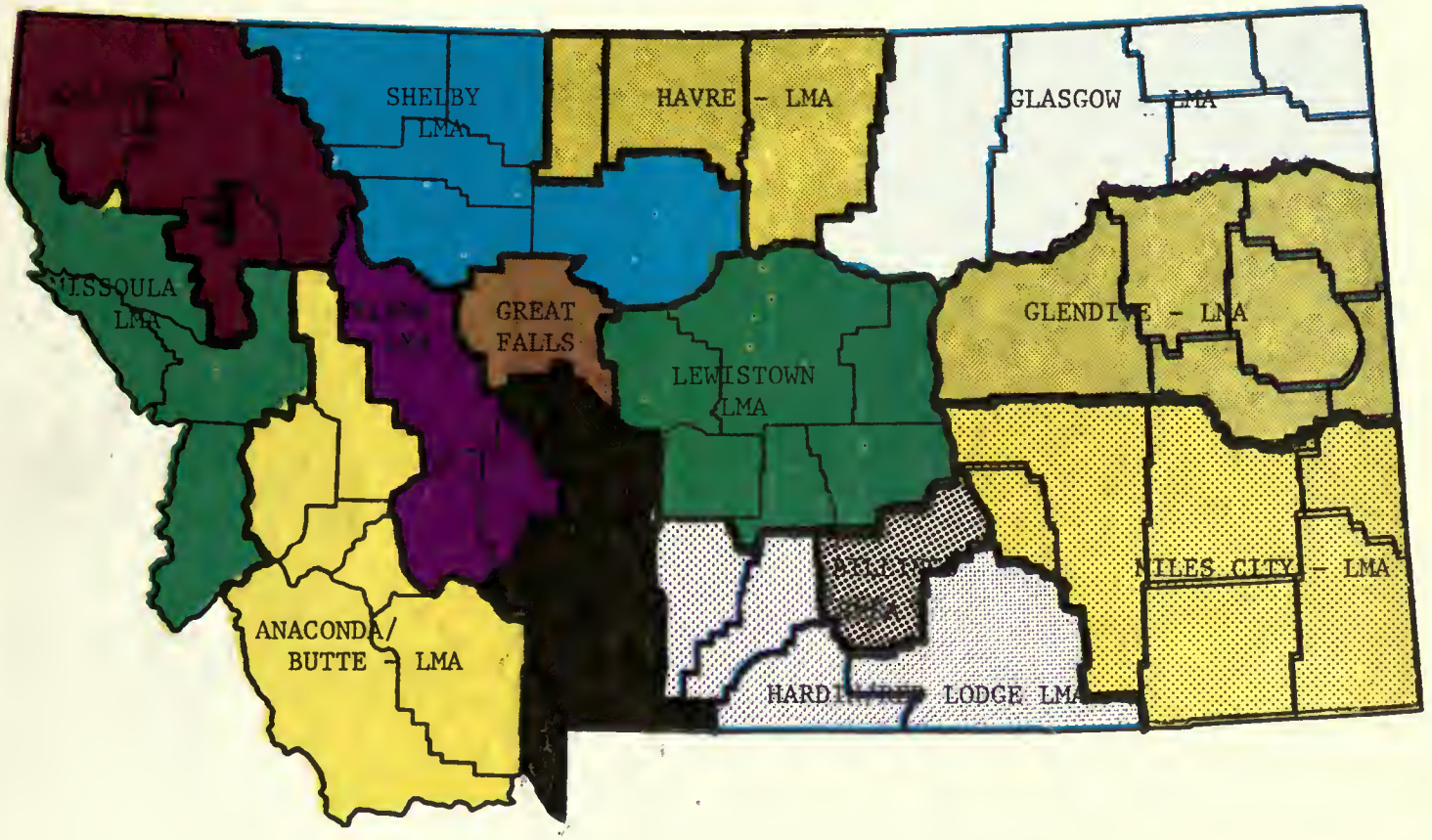

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

March 1979

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

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DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
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Volume 9 Number 3

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

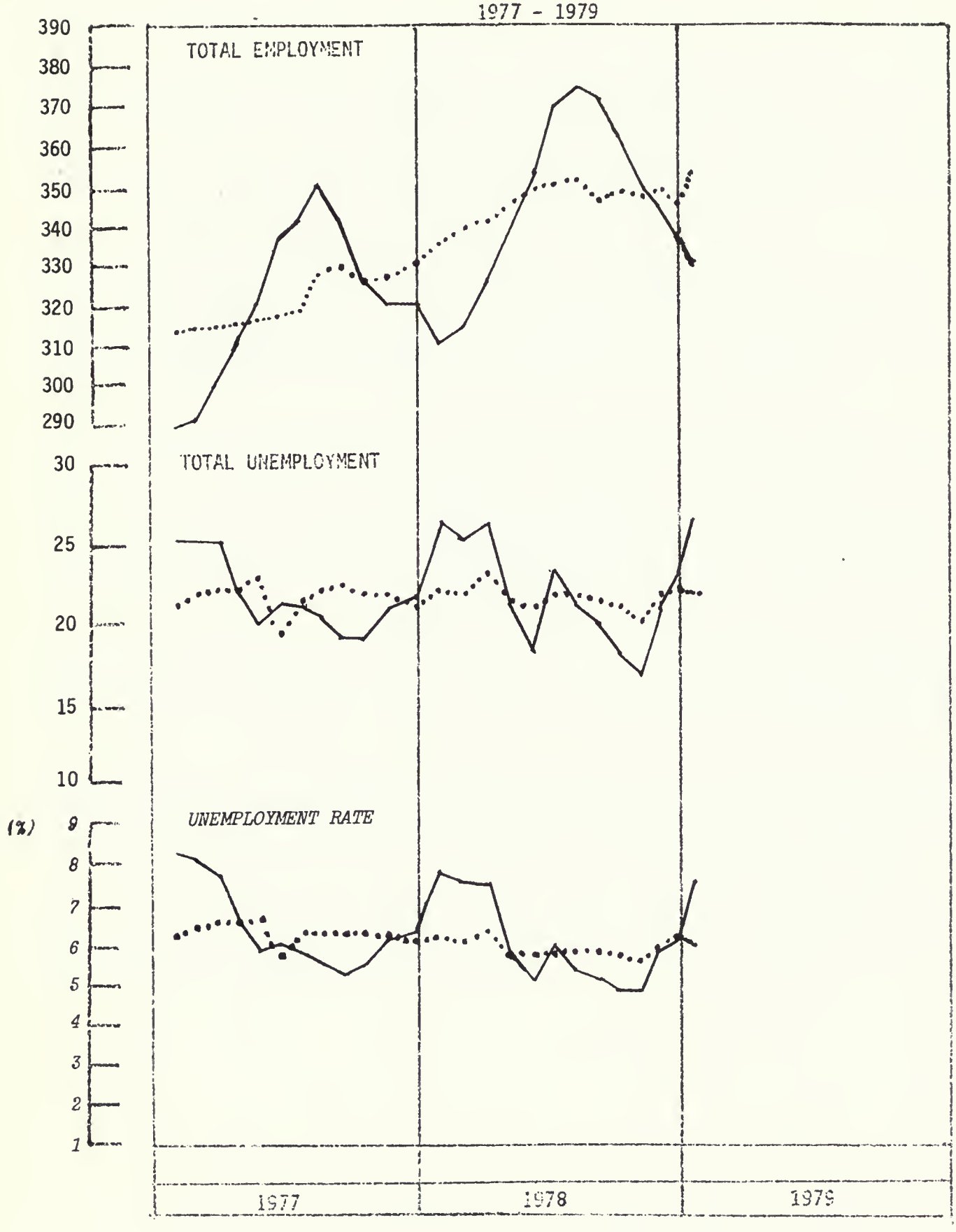
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)

1977 - 1979



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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* STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS *

The number of jobless persons dropped by 4,500 during the past month to a February level of 22,100. A considerable improvement can also be noted by comparing this figure to last February's count of 25,700 unemployed. Unemployment rates reflect these positive movements as the 6.2% rate calculated for February was much less than the 7.5% recorded for January and last February. These figures may be signs that the economy is recovering rapidly from the severe winter, much quicker than was anticipated.

Employment showed a 5.8% gain in the past year to reach February's level of 335,100. This is a 5,500 increase in the past month from the January low point. The civilian labor force numbers 357,200, up slightly from January's 356,200, but well above the 342,500 recorded last February. The economy continues to grow as shown by these annual comparisons, even showing increases in the seasonal low points of the winter months. As the weather improves the upward movement may become even more apparent.

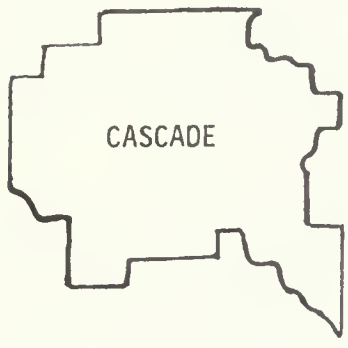
Construction activities are finally beginning to get untracked as the long winter siege ends. Several large projects continue throughout the state including a large expansion of a lumber and wood products plant near Missoula, the MHD facility in Butte, a large shopping mall in Bozeman, and a 22 story hotel in Billings. Legal disputes have halted progress on two power plants at Colstrip and a reregulation dam near Libby, but resolution of the cases should occur soon. The construction phase is expected to commence soon on two large mining projects at opposite ends of the state; they are a coal mine at Decker and a silver/copper mine near Troy. Other announced large scale projects include large regional shopping centers for the Helena and Kalispell areas.

The agricultural sector has noted increased activity in the fields as the weather moderates. Calving and lambing are in full swing with some calls for workers. The hay supply is still adequate in spite of extremely high feeding operations throughout the severe winter. Demand had been noted in several areas for farm workers and ranch couples as the farm job market picks up.

Hearings have begun in some cities on the route for an oil pipeline from the Washington coast to Minnesota. Environmental concerns have been raised in several areas as the process begins. The pipeline firm did receive some impetus from the announcement that a similar pipeline would not be constructed from California to Texas. According to the firm, building should begin later this year if all plans are approved on schedule.

Several major issues remain to be solved as the legislative session enters its final month. Budget and tax questions are still to be decided and these could certainly have an economic impact on the state. In a related issue, the labor dispute affecting state workers at three institutions has been settled.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force was unchanged in February from January's count of 34,900. This year's number lead last February's number by 1,200. Employment experienced similar seasonal growth. Employment grew by 600 from January to February reaching 32,500. A five percent increase was reflected this year from last year's count of 31,000. This growth followed past patterns and indicated that the local economy was starting its recall of many seasonal workers.

The number of unemployed in Cascade County totaled 2,400 in February. This was 600 less than the preceding month and 300 less than the same month one year ago. The SMSA's rate of unemployment in February was 7.0%. This compared to 8.6% the previous month and to 8.0% for the same month one year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activities are gearing up after a seasonal lull. A dramatic increase in the number of building permits for building repairs and alterations is noted this February over last year. This year's valuation was $133,738 higher than the same month last year. Major construction projects started last year continue. New projects will start as weather permits.

One project awaiting work weather conditions is the sewer main repair project. An out-of-state firm has the $189,000 project. Presently, materials are at the construction site. Construction on a 15,000 square foot home building center is proposed at this time with construction to start in the spring. Demolition has started on existing structures which will be the new location of an area bank. Bridge construction on the 1st Avenue North bridge continues at this time.

The North Park complex has another firm. A sound shop specializing in automobile stero systems opened in a new 8,000 square foot annex. A lounge in the industrial complex nears completion. Great Falls will have another title office. The firm will open with two employees and increase to six later. Telephone book delivery provided temporary employment for 63 workers. A long term metals firm ceased its operations, laying off 46 employees recently.

The employment outlook for qualified construction workers appears good with the onset of spring. Several projects are ready. Hiring of summer workers in other industry sectors will start shortly. Such hires are presently limited by weather conditions in the area. Agricultural activities will experience a lull in the transition from feeding and calving operations to crop seeding. Transportation activities will accelerate from present seasonal schedules to summer schedules. Other industry sectors making a similar transition will be services and trade. Industry sectors remaining stable for the next month will be Manufacturing and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. At this time labor supplies are adequately meeting labor demands.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employmemt and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Billings SMSA totaled 53,200 during February. This figure was 100 more than January's, and amounted to an increase of 3.5% over the 51,400 level recorded one year ago. The number of individuals who were unemployed declined by 700 during the month, contributing to a reduction in the area unemployment rate from 5.8% in January to 4.5% in February.

As expected, the largest percentage of claims for unployment insurance through the last four weeks were filed by individuals from the construction sector. During this time, however, the percentage became consistently lower with each passing week. This trend, and a reversal in the climb of the overall unemployment rate, suggest that the seasonal upswing in the economy of the SMSA has begun.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

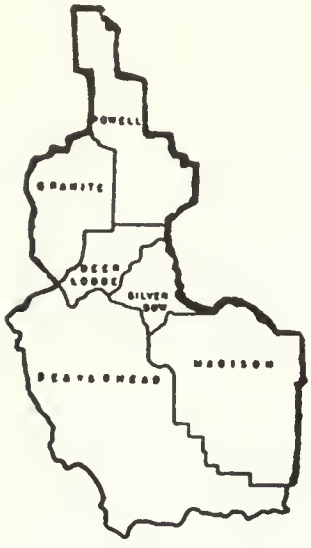
The completion of sugar processing operations in the area has been making its effect felt in recent weeks, with increasing numbers of workers being laid-off. More than 200 individuals have lost their jobs as the processing has fininished.

Fortunately, a rapidly expanding construction sector should take up some of the economic slack in the coming weeks. Building permits valued at more than $4 million were issued during February, and improving weather conditions should allow work to begin on many of the projects. Among the more prominent projects being undertaken are a $152,000 warehouse, and a 13,700 square foot addition to a local supermarket.

The retail sector continues to be strong, as evidenced by the expected openings of a number of new establishments in the area. These new stores will have combined personnel openings for more than twenty-five, while a new industrial firm will be opening with approximately sixteen new employees.

Growth continues to be the watchword for the Billings area again this year with significant further expansion anticipated in both commercial and residential properties. Subsequent economic improvements offer a promising outlook for ths SMSA in the coming months.

ANACONDA - BUTTE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force grew from 34,600 in January to 35,300 in February. Employment registered similar growth from 32,000 to 32,900 during the same time period. When compared to one year ago February's civilian labor force was 4.4% greater this year, and employment was 6.5% greater than last year.

Unemployment in the LMA measured 2,400 in February. This was 200 less than the previous month and 500 less than last year's figure. The unemployment rate in February was tallied at 6.7%. January's rate was recorded at 7.6%. In comparison to last year's rate of 8.7%, this year's unemployment rate reflected a strong improvement over last year's conditions.

Economic Highlights & Employment Outlook:

The labor dispute between state workers and the State has been settled. Area merchants indicate consumer activities have been slowed because of the dispute. The smelting facility at Anaconda will close down in April due to a lack of concentrates. Maintenance activities at the site will keep 200 of the 850 affected workers on the job. Mining operations at Butte are expected to remain stable.

Agricultural operations are moving from calving into feed crop preparations. Shearing activities will commence soon for local herders. Logging activities in the LMA presently are halted due to spring breakup conditions. Call back to work is not expected until next month.

A new store will open in a Butte shopping center. This will bring the center to full capacity with plans for expansion of the center underway. A Butte restaurant has closed and will reopen as another business. Another restaurant will be closed three weeks for remodeling affecting 18 workers. A fast food restaurant employing 35 employees has opened. The MERDI project near Butte plans to hire 50-60 workers within the next year. Magneto-hydrodynamic operations received a grant to conduct geothermic research as part of the MERDI project.

The Beaverhead County Courthouse is currently adding 1,400 square feet to the existing facility. The City of Dillon has taken under advisement the future of a 24 unit low-income housing development by a Great Falls firm. Interstate highway construction activities are beginning in the Dillon area, as well as residential construction, for the season.

Employment opportunities for loggers is bleak until breakup has ended. The onset of construction starts should provide good employment opportunities for skilled craft workers. Some hiring for farm and ranch workers has occurred. Shortages are not anticipated as long as hiring continues in moderate levels. Hiring in the trade and service sectors will begin to peak for seasonal operations dependent upon tourism. Some replacement hiring is taking place at this time, but is not greater than normal.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Growth and improvement continue to keynote the labor force statistics for the Bozeman area. The civilian labor force for February is 25,900, a 4.9% gain over the figure reported for last February. Employment tallies also indicate positive movement as shown by a 5.6% increase in the past year to a current level of 24,500. This figure is also up by 200 from the January employment count of 24,300.

Unemployment numbers show similar trends for the area. The jobless rate is now 5.2%, down considerably from the 6.5% rate calculated for January and the 5.6% rate stated for December. A comparison with last February's rate shows a net loss of .8 in the rate during the period. The tally of unemployed persons is now 1,400, a drop from the previous two month's figures of 1,700 and 1,500. A year ago a figure of 1,500 was recorded for the unemployed segment of the population. Overall, the labor force statistics indicate continued growth in the area economy.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

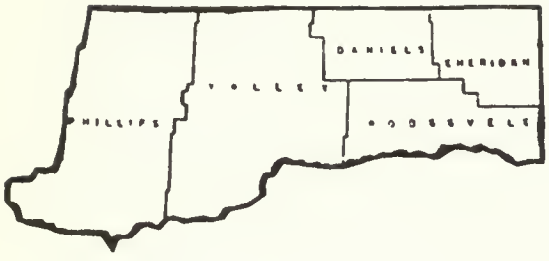
Agricultural activity has started to pick up as the calving season is in full swing. The heavy feeding operations have continued throughout the whole winter, but hay supplies are reported to still be adequate. Job opportunities have been noted for experienced ranch workers and ranch couples throughout the LMA.

An area manufactured home producer has been forced to cut back its operations, reportedly due to a lack of sales. The firm first reduced the employees hours of work, and later in the period decided to temporarily shut down production completely. A small lumber mill has also closed down during the month.

Business is reported to be slow in the retail and service sectors, but this is normal for this time of year. Merchants expect sales to rebound as the weather moderates and predict a good year.

Some construction activity has resumed and new starts should commence soon as the conditions improve. Large projects already underway include a large regional shopping center and an insurance company headquarters, both of which should be completed this year. The report on building permits issued for February shows a decrease in both value and number since last February. The trend appears to be for some slowing of recent growth, but perhaps it should be noted that the past two years have been close to boom periods, so the slowdown is not an extreme change.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

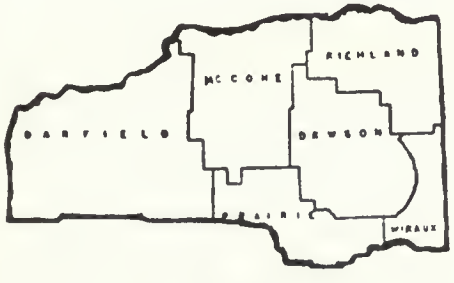
Employment figures for early 1979 continue to show considerable improvement over those of 1978. Though the February civilian labor force increased a moderate .7% to 15,100, a 3.6% increase in employment was noted (to 14,400), while unemployment declined to 700. These figures reflect a drop in the unemployment rate from 7.3% in February 1978 to 4.7% in February 1979. Improving weather conditions are contributing to the start of the seasonal upswing in employment figures as well. During the past four weeks the civilian labor force increased by 200, while 300 people joined the ranks of the employed, and the number of unemployed dropped by 100.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Cold and blizzard conditions during the first half of February took their toll on the economy of the LMA. What may have been the worst storm of the winter in this area temporarily prevented many workers from getting to their jobs. Businesses in the retail section also felt the consequences, as many would-be shoppers chose to stay home. Fortunately, the extreme conditions did not persist and business returned to normal later in the month.

Employment opportunities should begin to improve with the weather. An increasing demand for agricultural workers in particular, is expected, and a variety of both industrial and residential construction projects are slated to begin as soon as weather permits.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force declined again during February to 13,100 from 13,200 reported the previous month. Employment in the LMA remained stable at 12,600 for both months. In comparison to February 1978 figures, the civilian labor force was 1.6% greater this year and employment registered a 4.1% increase over last year.

February's unemployment rate of 3.4% was dramatically improved this year over last year's rate of 5.8%. The number of unemployed measured 500 this February -- 300 less than one year ago. Last month's count of unemployed was recorded at 600 for a 4.3% rate of unemployed.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

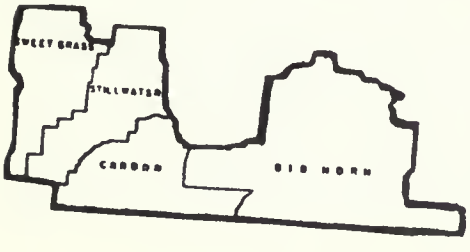
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

With the onset of summer weather conditions, activities are increasing in the oilfield, agricultural and construction industry sectors. Oilfield operations that have been idled because of drifting and blowing snows in past months have had muddy terrain to contend with in recent weeks. Conditions are much improved at this time permitting access to nearly all field sites. Calving for area ranchers nears completion. Preparation for seeding is in progress with activities centered on equipment repair and seed purchasing. For the past months construction has been limited to interior work. Presently, outside work on existing projects is commencing as weather permits.

The sugar beet campaign nears completion as slicing operations have been completed. Cleanup and maintenance activities have started at the plant. A new fast food restaurant opening the end of March is expected to employ 25 to 30 workers. Cleanup by local government progresses in most communities.

Currently, employment in the oilfield and construction groups is rapidly increasing. The outlook for job availability is excellent until early summer when seasonal peaks are reached. Shortages of qualified workers may be experienced as a result of normal seasonal spurts that occur. The outlook is also good for qualified clerical workers in the LMA as a greater than usual demand for replacement needs is present at this time. Calls for farm and ranch workers are starting.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In general, employment statistics for this labor market area are showing positive movements for the month. Although the civilian labor force remained unchanged from January's total of 11,800, the number of employed persons increased from 11,000 that month, to 11,200 in February. With 200 fewer people in the ranks of the jobless, the unemployment rate this month declined to 5.0% from 6.4% in January.

Comparing current employment figures with those of one year ago reveals substantial improvement in the general employment situation. The civilian labor force is 7.3% larger and employment has grown 10.9%. Furthermore, the present unemployment rate compares very favorably with the 7.9% joblessness of February 1978.

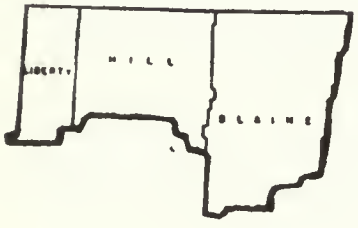
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As in other parts of Montana, the Hardin-Red Lodge area is awaiting the onset of milder weather to provide its seasonal economic boost. Initial signs of improvement have been seen in the construction sector, but full resumption of building activity is still some weeks off.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA (Cont.)

Agriculture, too, is experiencing increased activity with the calving season at hand, but further employment boosts are not expected until mild weather remains.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The employment situation in the Havre LMA has shown a slight change during the past month. The February civilian labor force remained at the 12,000 level recorded in January, while employment increased by 100 individuals. That figure now stands at 11,300, and those still on the unemployment rolls totaled 700. These shifts in the composition of the labor force contributed to a drop in the unemployment rate from 7.0% in January to 6.0% in February.

Compared with figures recorded for the same month one year ago, the civilian labor force has shown a 1.7% increase, employment is up by 3.7%, and the unemployment rate has been reduced to its current level from the rate of 7.5% registered in February 1978.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The winter has continued to take its toll on the economy of this area. Most reports indicate that cold and snowy weather has persisted in keeping outdoor activity at a minimum.

Some recent moderation in temperatures has brightened expectations, however, particularly in the construction sector, which is beginning to show the first signs of its seasonal upswing. This is evidenced by a decreasing number of unemployment insurance claims being filed by workers in that field.

Exploration drilling for oil and gas is at a virtual standstill, as prohibitive working conditions remain.

In agriculture, feeding remains the primary activity. However, with the beginning of the calving season the employment outlook for this sector should continue to improve.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate for the area for February was 6.6%, as it dropped from the January peak of 7.2%. This rate is slightly above the one noted last February, probably due to a labor dispute at an area state institution. A total of 1,800 individuals are jobless, a decrease of 200 from January's 2,000 figure, and equal to the tally for February of 1978.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

The civilian labor force and employment counts show a relatively constant 4% increase in the past twelve months. The civilian labor force is now 27,900, a 4.1% gain over the 26,800 counted in February of 1978. The figure is also up from the 27,400 and 27,300 noted repectively for January and December. Employment showed and even better 4.4% jump in the past year and is now at a 26,100 level. This February figure shows a rebound of 700 from the low of 25,400 calculated for January. With moderating weather and an end to the labor dispute, the Helena LMA labor force statistics should continue to improve.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The moderate weather has caused a notable upturn in construction activity as projects resume or are started. Motels, office buildings, a large grocery chain, and a drive-in banking facility are significant major projects. Housing starts are commencing after the extremely long cold winter, and tradesmen are returning to work after long weather induced layoffs.

Planning is continuing for two major shopping center projects that expect to get started sometime this year. The legal dispute over the one center has still not come to a final resolution in the courts. The other developer reports that he had several large retail outlets committed to his facility and construction should start soon.

A labor dispute involving state employees at a state institution in Boulder has now been settled, but did affect the LMA economy in the past month. The economy of the small community was definitely slowed down by the lingering dispute in its primary industry.

Agriculture is beginning to show rejuvenated activity levels as the winter ends. The feeding operations prevalent throughout the winter continue in some areas, and calving and lambing have created some demand for ranch workers.

The local Job Service office has noted demand situations in several occupations. Service workers, checkers, and, as usual, clerical help are in particular demand. The end of the legislative session in April will result in the layoff of numerous temporary clerical workers and might help to ease the situation in those occupations.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force remained stable in January and February at 38,300 persons. This year's labor force number was 7.0% greater than the February figure of 35,800 reported last year. An employment gain of 700 workers was reflected in the January to February change that moved employment to 35,100. In comparison to February last year, the civilian labor force was 2,500 greater this year, for a 7.0% increase. Employment showed a 9.0% increase over last year's February figure of 32,200.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

Unemployment in the LMA totaled 3,200 persons in February which was 700 less than in January. The number of unemployed one year ago totaled 3,600. The unemployment rate in February was measured at 8.5%. The previous month's rate was 10.3%. This year's rate compared favorably to last year's rate of 10.1%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Feeding and calving activities near completion for the season in the LMA. Seed potato sorting is underway. Because of a lack in potato orders some area growers are feeding potatoes to their cattle. Most of the logging industry will be idled as a result of spring breakup. Breakup is expected to continue into May.

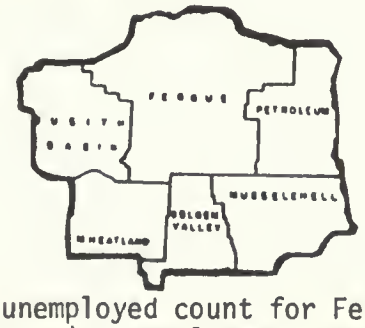
Hiring has started for summer workers at area fast food outlets. As warmer weather occurs, additional openings will cause hiring to intensify. Critical shortages of qualified workers in the trade and service sectors are not anticipated as hiring activities are expected to be steady and moderate.

Construction on a fast food outlet in Polson nears completion. In Kalispell, development of a 300,000 square foot shopping center has been proposed. Initially, 300 persons will be employed on the project that is scheduled to begin this year and be completed in the fall of next year. Construction on existing projects, to include remodeling, continues at a seasonal pace, while new starts have been delayed because of ground frost.

Bids on the Tobacco Plains Recreation Area near Libby Dam have been accepted by the Corps of Engineers. Construction details of this project are not available at this time. A layoff affecting 150 employees at the Vermiculite plant for two weeks was partially averted. A train derailment caused extensive damage to a Zonolite conveyer system and loading facility causing a recall of 50 to 60 workers affected by the mid-February layoff.

The employment outlook is good in the trade and service sectors as hirings are commencing for workers to handle seasonal tourist traffic. Calls for qualified construction workers will pick up as warmer weather prevails. Calls for loggers will be severely limited and isolated as breakup continues. Some activity will be noted in agriculture as summer hires will commence. The filming of a movie in the Kalispell area will provide temporary employment for those called as extras later this spring. Trade and service outlets will benefit from the pretourist season impact of the filming.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force grew by 100 to 9,900 in February from January. This year's labor force figure was also up 100 from last year's count. Employment was up from last month totaling 9,400 - a 200 increase. Last year's February count was 9,000. Employment this year was 4.4% greater than last year.

The unemployed count for February totaled 500, which was 100 less than the preceding month. February's unemployment rate of 5.0% compared to 6.2% the previous month and 8.0% for the same month one year ago.

LEWISTOWN LMA (Cont.)

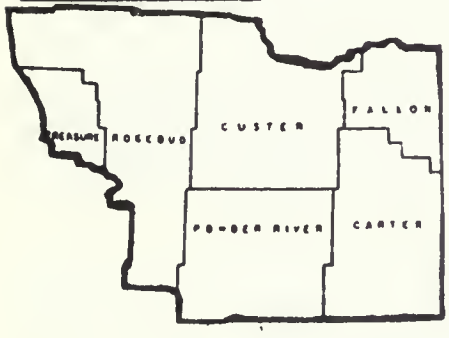
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The eclipse during the end of February brought viewers from all over the world to Lewistown. Trade and service activities were enhanced by this natural event. Signs of resurgence in many industry sectors from winter are visible in the LMA.

In the agricultural sector, the end of calving is bringing about the start of area seeding operations. It will be several weeks until crop lands are sufficiently dry to plant crops, but preparations are starting at this time. Sawmill operations in the LMA are on steady schedules and not hampered by adverse weather conditions. Major hiring in this sector for summer peak work forces has not commenced. A local utility is starting to hire for a line construction project. A mobile employment and training unit was in Roundup the end of February to assist unemployed job seekers.

The employment outlook for farm and ranch workers is excellent at this time. Major hiring for construction workers is beginning, but only moderately at this time. As weather conditions improve and new construction starts occur, the demand for skilled construction workers will peak. Replacement hiring in the trade and service sectors is light at this time.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the area dropped to 5.4% in February down from the 6.4% recorded in January, and even better than December's 5.6%. Considerable improvement can also be noted by comparing the rate to the 6.7% recorded in February of 1978. The number of unemployed persons is now 800 as compared to the 900 figure reported in January.

Positive movements were apparent in the civilian labor force and employment statistics as the area economy started to rebound from the winter lull. The civilian labor force was up by 200 in the past month to a 14,000 level. A 2.2% gain in the civilian labor force was also noted in the past twelve months. Employment showed similar, but slightly better increases as the 13,200 persons counted as employed in February is a jump of 300 over the past month and a 3.1% increase over the figure for the previous February. Collectively, the labor force statistics indicate that the area has an expanding labor force and employed population as the slow but stable growth continues in the LMA's economy.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Cattle prices continue to climb as new price records are set weekly at a local livestock market. Reports on the national level state that the price increases are due to a dwindling supply of cattle and that the situation may not change for a few years. The development may not delight consumers, but after some very lean years it is good news to area ranchers.

Activity in the construction sector should begin soon as weather conditions are improving throughout the area. Equipment and materials are being stockpiled in anticipation of

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

the resumption of building of two area power plants, pending the dispensation of the court case currently halting activity. Some work has been resumed on a large discount store being built in Miles City.

The retail and service sectors are starting to show some employment gains as the weather moderates. A new restaurant in Miles City experienced a fire, but should be back in operation in five to six weeks.

Some flooding was reported in Miles City as ice and snow jams have caused the river to overflow its banks. No loss figures or economic consequences have been reported.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Missoula LMA civilian labor force stood at 49,700 in February, a decline of 700 from January's level. Of that total, 46,100 individuals were employed, while 3,600 were without work. The latter figure is 1,000 less than the previous month's unemployment total, and resulted in a drop in the jobless rate from 9.0% in January to a current rate of 7.3%.

Present employment statistics for the area show healthy gains over those recorded during February 1978. The civilian labor force is 6.9% larger than last year's 46,500, and the number of persons employed has grown 7.7% over last February's total of 42,800.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

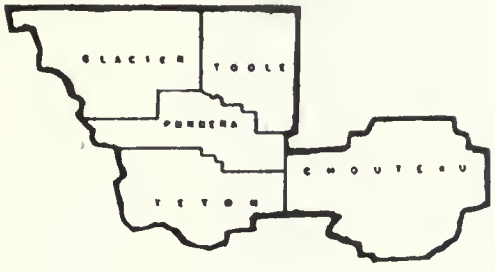
Recent warming trends in the area have had mixed effects on the economic situation of this LMA. With snow melting in the forest regions, logging activity has been adversely influenced by the annual "spring breakup". All lumber manufacturing firms have been affected to some extent, and at least one major company was forced to temporarily lay off 70 workers due to impassable forest roads.

While the warmer weather has hampered lumber and wood products business it has provided a welcome stimulus to the construction sector. The number of building permits issued during February was 25, and they had a total valuation of $1,858,974.

Perhaps the most significant item in recent construction news is the plan to erect a new bank building in Missoula. The three story structure will be 50,000 square feet and have an estimated cost of $3 million. Construction is expected to begin in March and should be completed by the summer of 1980.

Employment in other industry groups remains relatively stable, and the general outlook should become increasingly favorable as spring approaches.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force measured 16,200 in February—up 100 from the previous month. In comparison to last year, the civilian labor force this year was 400 greater. Employment in the LMA was up by 300 from the January count of 14,800. Last year the employed count totaled 14,500 in February. The 600 increase over last year was a 4.1% increase.

Unemployment in the LMA fell by 200 to 1,100 in February from the previous month. Last year the unemployed count in February measured 1,300. The February unemployment rate of 7.0% compared to 7.9% the preceding month and 8.2% one year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has awarded contracts for the construction of a $3 million elementary school at Heart Butte. The school will be constructed into the side of a hill, thus reducing heating costs. Approximately 200 students will attend the school that will replace an existing faciltiy. A road closure between the east and west entrances to Glacier Park caused by a bridge washout has limited transportation activities in the area. A temporary bridge has been installed while repair construction is conducted on a permanent structure. Trade and service industry sectors enjoyed increased consumer activity as a result of the Divisional Class A basketball tournament held in Cut Bank. Oilfield activities were slowed slightly because of muddy field conditions. Weather improvements will bring oilfield activities to their seasonal peak in the coming months.

Outdoor construction activities are returning to the area. Activity is starting on the shopping center construction in Cut Bank and on residential units throughout the LMA. Calving operations are peaking with sheep shearing activities starting.

Employment outlook for oilfield and construction workers is expected to be good. Employment opportunities for workers possessing these skills are limited only to prevailing weather conditions. Trade and service hiring is starting for the onset of another tourist season. Shortages for qualified LPN's and RN's in the Shelby area continues to exist.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 1979

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	309	81	2518
CETA-CEP	69	24	249
CETA-INST.	20	7	248
CETA-OJT	24	11	85
JOB CORPS	90	25	436
PSE TITLE II	124	24	429
PSE TITLE VI	71	31	374
PSE TITLE VI-A	56	15	262
CETA - AWE	56	18	136
STIP I	0	1	17
HIRE II	16	14	76
STRIP II	21	--	21

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	FEBRUARY 1979	*Percent Change From:* JANUARY 1979	FEBRUARY 1978
All Items	207.1	*1.2*	*9.9*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

FEBRUARY 1979

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*11.1%*
Female	*24.3%*
Youth	*7.6%*
Over 45	*21.3%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

2/ Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	Percent[1] U. S.	
1977								
January	315.8	290.3	267.7	22.6	25.5	*8.1*	*8.3*	*
February	318.4	292.9	268.1	24.8	25.5	*8.0*	*8.5*	*
March	327.2	301.9	272.0	29.9	25.3	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.1	313.8	276.8	37.0	22.3	*6.6*	*6.9*	*
May	343.4	323.1	285.0	38.1	20.3	*5.9*	*6.4*	*
June	360.0	338.5	295.2	43.3	21.5	*6.0*	*7.5*	.1
July	364.4	343.2	297.0	46.2	21.2	*5.8*	*7.0*	3.4
August	374.5	353.7	304.4	49.3	20.8	*5.5*	*6.8*	.2
September	362.5	343.3	304.9	38.4	19.2	*5.3*	*6.6*	.1
October	347.0	327.8	295.3	32.5	19.2	*5.5*	*6.3*	.4
November	345.0	323.7	295.8	27.9	21.3	*6.2*	*6.4*	.3
December	345.7	323.7	299.8	23.9	22.0	*6.4*	*6.0*	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	338.7	312.1	290.1	22.0	26.6	*7.8*	*7.0*	*
February	342.5	316.8	292.9	23.9	25.7	*7.5*	*6.9*	*
March	355.1	328.6	300.0	28.6	26.5	*7.5*	*6.6*	*
April	365.9	344.5	309.4	35.1	21.4	*5.9*	*5.8*	*
May	373.6	354.9	318.8	36.1	18.7	*5.0*	*5.5*	.1
June	395.1	371.4	330.2	41.2	23.7	*6.0*	*6.2*	.4
July	396.5	375.0	330.9	44.1	21.5	*5.4*	*6.3*	.2
August	393.6	373.4	326.2	47.2	20.2	*5.1*	*5.8*	.1
September	382.0	363.9	327.1	36.8	18.1	*4.7*	*6.0*	.1
October	368.1	350.8	319.5	31.3	17.3	*4.7*	*5.4*	.1
November	367.6	346.4	319.5	26.9	21.2	*5.8*	*5.5*	.1
December	361.2	338.1	315.0	23.1	23.1	*6.4*	*5.6*	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	*6.0*	*6.0*	.1
1979								
January	356.2	329.6	308.3	21.3	26.6	*7.5*	*6.4*	*
February	357.2	335.1	288.1	23.2	22.1	*6.2*	*6.4*	1.0
March	*366.1*	*345.4*	*317.6*	*27.8*	*20.7*	*5.7*		*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	31.4	29.0	28.1	.9	2.4	*7.7*	*8.1*	*
February	31.4	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.1	*6.8*	*8.0*	*
March	32.1	29.9	28.7	1.2	2.2	*7.0*	*7.7*	*
April	32.2	30.3	28.8	1.5	1.9	*5.9*	*6.6*	*
May	32.7	30.8	29.3	1.5	1.9	*5.8*	*5.9*	*
June	34.1	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.1	*6.0*	*6.0*	*
July	34.3	32.2	30.4	1.8	2.1	*6.2*	*5.8*	.8
August	34.5	32.4	30.5	1.9	2.1	*6.1*	*5.5*	*
September	34.8	32.7	31.2	1.5	2.1	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
October	34.1	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.2	*6.3*	*5.5*	.3
November	34.0	32.0	30.9	1.1	2.0	*5.9*	*6.2*	.3
December	34.0	31.7	30.8	.9	2.3	*6.6*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	*6.4*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	33.2	30.4	29.5	.9	2.8	*8.3*	*7.8*	*
February	33.7	31.0	30.1	.9	2.7	*8.0*	*7.5*	*
March	34.7	32.1	31.0	1.1	2.6	*7.4*	*7.5*	*
April	34.5	32.5	31.1	1.4	2.0	*5.8*	*5.9*	*
May	35.0	33.1	31.7	1.4	1.9	*5.4*	*5.0*	*
June	37.1	34.3	32.7	1.6	2.8	*7.4*	*6.0*	*
July	37.1	34.8	33.1	1.7	2.3	*6.3*	*5.4*	*
August	37.0	34.7	32.8	1.9	2.3	*6.2*	*5.1*	*
September	36.8	34.5	33.0	1.5	2.3	*6.2*	*4.7*	*
October	36.0	33.9	32.7	1.2	2.1	*5.9*	*4.7*	*
November	36.3	33.6	32.5	1.1	2.7	*7.4*	*5.8*	*
December	35.6	32.8	31.9	.9	2.8	*7.9*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	*6.8*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	34.9	31.9	31.1	.8	3.0	*8.6*	*7.5*	*
February	34.9	32.5	31.6	.9	2.4	*7.0*	*6.2*	*
March	*35.7*	*33.7*	*32.3*	*1.1*	*2.3*	*6.3*	*5.7*	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1977								
January	48.0	45.0	44.0	1.0	3.0	*6.2*	*8.1*	*
February	48.2	45.3	44.2	1.1	2.9	*6.0*	*8.0*	*
March	49.0	46.3	44.9	1.4	2.7	*5.6*	*7.7*	*
April	49.4	47.0	45.3	1.7	2.4	*4.8*	*6.6*	*
May	50.0	47.7	46.0	1.7	2.3	*4.6*	*5.9*	*
June	51.7	49.4	47.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.0*	*
July	51.9	49.6	47.5	2.1	2.3	*4.4*	*5.8*	*
August	52.6	50.3	48.0	2.3	2.3	*4.3*	*5.5*	*
September	52.9	50.7	48.9	1.8	2.2	*4.2*	*5.3*	*
October	51.6	49.3	47.8	1.5	2.3	*4.4*	*5.5*	*
November	52.0	49.7	48.4	1.3	2.3	*4.4*	*6.2*	*
December	52.7	50.3	49.2	1.1	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	*4.8*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.1	48.0	47.0	1.0	3.1	*6.1*	*7.8*	*
February	51.4	48.5	47.4	1.1	2.9	*5.6*	*7.5*	*
March	52.9	49.7	48.4	1.3	3.2	*6.1*	*7.5*	*
April	53.8	51.5	49.9	1.6	2.3	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
May	53.8	51.7	50.0	1.7	2.1	*3.9*	*5.0*	*
June	55.7	53.0	51.1	1.9	2.7	*4.8*	*6.0*	*
July	55.3	53.0	51.0	2.0	2.3	*4.2*	*5.4*	*
August	55.0	52.7	50.5	2.2	2.3	*4.1*	*5.1*	*
September	55.5	53.4	51.7	1.7	2.1	*3.8*	*4.7*	*
October	54.6	52.8	51.4	1.4	1.8	*3.2*	*4.7*	*
November	55.2	52.6	51.4	1.2	2.6	*4.8*	*5.8*	*
December	54.4	51.7	50.6	1.1	2.7	*4.9*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	*4.6*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	53.5	50.5	49.5	1.0	3.0	*5.7*	*7.4*	*
February	53.2	50.8	49.7	1.1	2.4	*4.5*	*6.2*	*
March	*54.2*	*51.8*	*50.5*	*1.3*	*2.3*	*4.3*	*5.7*	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

February 1979
in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	357.2	356.2	342.5	1.0	14.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	335.1	329.6	316.8	5.5	18.3
Persons Employed in Agriculture	23.2	21.3	23.9	1.9	-.7
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	22.1	26.6	25.7	-4.5	-3.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.2*	*7.5*	*7.5*	*-1.3*	*-1.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.9*	*6.0*	*6.1*	*-1.1*	*-1.2*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*270.6*	*271.2*	*261.3*	*-.6*	*9.3*
MANUFACTURING	*26.6*	*26.5*	*25.0*	*.1*	*1.6*
Durable Goods	*17.2*	*17.2*	*16.4*	*0*	*.8*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*10.8*	*10.8*	*10.2*	*0*	*.6*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.1*	*3.1*	*3.2*	*0*	*-.1*
Other Durable Goods	*3.3*	*3.3*	*3.0*	*0*	*.3*
Nondurable Goods	*9.4*	*9.3*	*8.6*	*.1*	*.8*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*4.3*	*4.3*	*4.0*	*0*	*.3*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.2*	*0*	*.1*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.0*	*1.0*	*1.0*	*0*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.8*	*1.7*	*1.4*	*.1*	*.4*
MINING	*7.5*	*7.5*	*6.0*	*0*	*1.5*
10 Metal Mining	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.0*	*0*	*.3*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.6*	*0*	*.4*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*3.2*	*3.2*	*2.4*	*0*	*.8*
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	*13.3*	*13.4*	*12.2*	*-.1*	*1.1*
15 General Building Contractors	*4.3*	*4.4*	*4.1*	*-.1*	*.2*
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	*3.7*	*3.6*	*3.5*	*.1*	*.2*
17 Special Trade Contractors	*5.3*	*5.4*	*4.6*	*-.1*	*.7*
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	*21.5*	*21.5*	*20.3*	*0*	*1.2*
40 Railroad Transportation	*6.5*	*6.5*	*6.3*	*0*	*.2*
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	*6.6*	*6.6*	*6.1*	*0*	*.5*
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	*8.4*	*8.4*	*7.9*	*0*	*.5*
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	*70.1*	*70.3*	*65.4*	*-.2*	*4.7*
Wholesale Trade	*16.1*	*16.2*	*15.5*	*-.1*	*.6*
Retail Trade	*54.0*	*54.1*	*49.9*	*-.1*	*4.1*
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	*8.3*	*8.6*	*7.8*	*-.3*	*.5*
54 Food Stores	*7.6*	*7.6*	*7.0*	*0*	*.6*
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	*8.4*	*8.5*	*8.1*	*-.1*	*.3*
58 Eating and Drinking Places	*19.1*	*18.9*	*17.2*	*.2*	*1.9*
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	*10.6*	*10.5*	*9.8*	*.1*	*.8*
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	*12.6*	*12.2*	*11.6*	*.4*	*1.0*
SERVICES	*51.4*	*51.5*	*49.1*	*-.1*	*2.3*
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	*6.4*	*6.3*	*5.8*	*.1*	*.6*
72 Personal Services	*2.6*	*2.7*	*2.5*	*-.1*	*.1*
80 Medical and other Health Services	*18.9*	*18.8*	*16.6*	*.1*	*.3*
Other Services	*25.5*	*25.7*	*24.2*	*-.2*	*1.3*
GOVERNMENT	*67.6*	*68.3*	*71.7*	*-.7*	*-4.1*
91 Federal Government	*11.2*	*11.5*	*12.5*	*-.3*	*-1.3*
92 State Colleges and Universities	*8.5*	*8.5*	*8.9*	*0*	*-.4*
92 Other State Government	*10.1*	*11.0*	*11.2*	*-.9*	*-1.1*
93 Local Education	*24.3*	*24.1*	*25.4*	*.2*	*-1.1*
93 Other Local Government	*13.5*	*13.2*	*13.7*	*.3*	*-.2*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

February 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	34.9	34.9	33.7	0	1.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.5	31.9	31.0	.6	1.5
Persons Employed in Agriculture	.9	.8	.9	.1	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.4	3.0	2.7	-.6	-.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*7.0*	*8.6*	*8.0*	*-1.6*	*-1.0*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.3*	*7.4*	*7.3*	*-1.1*	*-1.0*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*29.4*	*29.4*	*28.7*	*0*	*.7*
Manufacturing	*1.7*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*-.1*	*0*
Contract Construction	*1.4*	*1.4*	*1.4*	*0*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*0*	*.1*
Trade	*9.7*	*9.7*	*9.3*	*0*	*.4*
Wholesale Trade	*2.5*	*2.5*	*2.6*	*0*	*-.1*
Retail Trade	*7.2*	*7.2*	*6.7*	*0*	*.5*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.0*	*2.0*	*2.0*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.6*	*6.5*	*6.3*	*.1*	*.3*
Government	*6.1*	*6.1*	*6.2*	*0*	*-.1*
Federal Government	*2.0*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*.1*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*4.1*	*4.2*	*4.3*	*-.1*	*-.2*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*
2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

February 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	53.2	53.1	51.4	.1	1.8
EMPLOYED PERSONS	50.8	50.0	48.5	.8	2.3
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.1	1.0	1.1	.1	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.4	3.1	2.9	-.7	-.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.5*	*5.8*	*5.6*	*-1.3*	*-1.1*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*3.7*	*4.7*	*4.8*	*-1.0*	*-1.1*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*43.9*	*43.9*	*43.0*	*0*	*.9*
Manufacturing	*4.1*	*4.1*	*4.1*	*0*	*0*
Contract Construction	*1.8*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*-.1*	*-.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*4.1*	*4.1*	*3.9*	*0*	*.2*
Trade	*15.5*	*15.5*	*14.4*	*0*	*1.1*
Wholesale Trade	*5.3*	*5.3*	*4.9*	*0*	*.4*
Retail Trade	*10.2*	*10.2*	*9.5*	*0*	*.7*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.1*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*8.9*	*8.9*	*8.6*	*0*	*.3*
Government	*7.3*	*7.2*	*8.0*	*.1*	*-.7*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.4*	*0*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*5.8*	*5.7*	*6.6*	*.1*	*-.8*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979
STATEWIDE	361.2	356.2	357.2	338.1	329.6	335.1	23.1	26.6	22.1	*6.4*	*7.5*	*6.2*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.6	34.9	34.9	32.8	31.9	32.5	2.8	3.0	2.4	*7.9*	*8.6*	*7.0*
BILLINGS SMSA	54.4	53.1	53.2	51.7	50.0	50.8	2.7	3.1	2.4	*4.9*	*5.8*	*4.5*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	271.2	268.2	269.1	253.6	247.7	251.8	17.6	20.5	17.3	*6.5*	*7.7*	*6.4*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	36.0	34.6	35.3	33.5	32.0	32.9	2.5	2.6	2.4	*6.9*	*7.6*	*6.7*
BOZEMAN	26.4	26.0	25.9	24.9	24.3	24.5	1.5	1.7	1.4	*5.6*	*6.5*	*5.2*
GLASGOW	15.4	14.9	15.1	14.7	14.1	14.4	.7	.8	.7	*4.3*	*5.6*	*4.7*
GLENDIVE	13.4	13.2	13.1	12.9	12.6	12.6	.5	.6	.5	*3.6*	*4.3*	*3.4*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.2	11.8	11.8	11.4	11.0	11.2	.8	.8	.6	*6.2*	*6.4*	*5.0*
HAVRE	11.9	12.0	12.0	11.2	11.2	11.3	.7	.8	.7	*6.0*	*7.0*	*6.0*
HELENA	27.3	27.4	27.9	25.7	25.4	26.1	1.6	2.0	1.8	*5.9*	*7.2*	*6.6*
KALISPELL	37.7	38.3	38.3	34.5	34.4	35.1	3.2	3.9	3.2	*8.4*	*10.3*	*8.5*
LEWISTOWN	10.1	9.8	9.9	9.5	9.2	9.4	.6	.6	.5	*5.7*	*6.2*	*5.0*
MILES CITY	14.4	13.8	14.0	13.6	12.9	13.2	.8	.9	.8	*5.6*	*6.4*	*5.4*
MISSOULA	50.2	50.4	49.7	46.4	45.8	46.1	3.8	4.6	3.6	*7.5*	*9.0*	*7.3*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.4	16.1	16.2	15.3	14.8	15.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	*7.0*	*7.9*	*7.0*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Net Change 1978-1979	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Net Change 1978-1979
STATEWIDE	357.2	342.5	*4.3*	335.1	316.8	*5.8*	22.1	25.7	*-3.6*	6.2	7.5	*-1.3*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.9	33.7	*3.6*	32.5	31.0	*4.8*	2.4	2.7	*-.3*	7.0	8.0	*-1.0*
BILLINGS SMSA	53.2	51.4	*3.5*	50.8	48.5	*4.7*	2.4	2.9	*-.5*	4.5	5.6	*-1.1*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	269.1	257.4	*4.5*	251.8	237.3	*6.1*	17.3	20.1	*-2.8*	6.4	7.8	*-1.4*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.3	33.8	*4.4*	32.9	30.9	*6.5*	2.4	2.9	*-.5*	6.7	8.7	*-2.0*
BOZEMAN	25.9	24.7	*4.9*	24.5	23.2	*5.6*	1.4	1.5	*-.1*	5.2	6.0	*-.8*
GLASGOW	15.1	15.0	*.7*	14.4	13.9	*3.6*	.7	1.1	*-.4*	4.7	7.3	*-2.6*
GLENDIVE	13.1	12.9	*1.6*	12.6	12.1	*4.1*	.5	.8	*-.3*	3.4	5.8	*-2.4*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.8	11.0	*7.3*	11.2	10.1	*10.9*	.6	.9	*-.3*	5.0	7.9	*-2.9*
HAVRE	12.0	11.8	*1.7*	11.3	10.9	*3.7*	.7	.9	*-.2*	6.0	7.5	*-1.5*
HELENA	27.9	26.8	*4.1*	26.1	25.0	*4.4*	1.8	1.8	*0*	6.6	6.5	*.1*
KALISPELL	38.3	35.8	*7.0*	35.1	32.2	*9.0*	3.2	3.6	*-.4*	8.5	10.1	*-1.6*
LEWISTOWN	9.9	9.8	*1.0*	9.4	9.0	*4.4*	.5	.8	*-.3*	5.0	8.0	*-3.0*
MILES CITY	14.0	13.7	*2.2*	13.2	12.8	*3.1*	.8	.9	*-.1*	5.4	6.7	*-1.3*
MISSOULA	49.7	46.5	*6.9*	46.1	42.8	*7.7*	3.6	3.7	*-.1*	7.3	8.1	*-.8*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.2	15.8	*2.5*	15.1	14.5	*4.1*	1.1	1.3	*-.2*	7.0	8.2	*-1.2*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Table IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA — FEBRUARY 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	357229	335093	22136	6.2
CASCADE	34902	32469	2433	7.0
YELLOWSTONE	53162	50747	2415	4.5
BEAVERHEAD	4187	3998	189	4.5
BIG HORN	5481	5183	298	5.4
BLAINE	2926	2709	217	7.4
BROADWATER	1573	1502	71	4.5
CARBON	2904	2734	170	5.9
CARTER	770	682	88	11.4
CHOUTEAU	2576	2493	83	3.2
CUSTER	5566	5287	279	5.0
DANIELS	1321	1297	24	1.8
DAWSON	5226	5031	195	3.7
DEER LODGE	6250	5767	483	7.7
FALLON	2098	2036	62	3.0
FERGUS	5556	5317	239	4.3
FLATHEAD	22538	20758	1780	7.9
GALLATIN	19504	18621	883	4.5
GARFIELD	741	687	54	7.3
GLACIER	5267	4734	533	10.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	333	301	32	9.6
GRANITE	1433	1328	105	7.3
HILL	8057	7633	424	5.3
JEFFERSON	3064	2654	410	13.4
JUDITH BASIN	1053	942	111	10.5
LAKE	8138	7538	600	7.4
LEWIS AND CLARK	23260	21895	1365	5.9
LIBERTY	1006	929	77	7.7
LINCOLN	7628	6762	866	11.4
MC CONE	1029	998	31	3.0
MADISON	1957	1861	96	4.9
MEAGHER	871	825	46	5.3
MINERAL	1516	1357	159	10.5
MISSOULA	36886	34455	2431	6.6
MUSSELSHELL	1633	1562	71	4.3
PARK	5509	5089	420	7.6
PETROLEUM	250	244	6	2.4
PHILLIPS	2437	2327	110	4.5
PONDERA	3148	2962	186	5.9
POWDER RIVER	1019	974	45	4.4
POWELL	4367	4170	197	4.5
PRAIRIE	711	663	48	6.8
RAVALLI	7717	6995	722	9.4
RICHLAND	4752	4665	87	1.8
ROOSEVELT	4548	4309	239	5.3
ROSEBUD	4096	3834	262	6.4
SANDERS	3611	3272	339	9.4
SHERIDAN	2403	2342	61	2.5
SILVER BOW	17077	15796	1281	7.5
STILLWATER	1944	1855	89	4.6
SWEET GRASS	1447	1419	28	1.9
TETON	2584	2447	137	5.3
TOOLE	2652	2458	194	7.3
TREASURE	425	405	20	4.7
VALLEY	4394	4115	279	6.3
WHEATLAND	1107	1074	33	3.0
WIBAUX	619	586	33	5.3

Table IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
JANUARY 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	356246	329606	26640	7.5
CASCADE	34945	31944	3001	8.6
YELLOWSTONE	53072	49999	3073	5.8
BEAVERHEAD	4172	3937	235	5.6
BIG HORN	5483	5110	373	6.8
BLAINE	2915	2632	283	9.7
BROADWATER	1673	1522	151	9.0
CARBON	2890	2675	215	7.4
CARTER	742	648	94	12.7
CHOUTEAU	2534	2423	111	4.4
CUSTER	5597	5204	393	7.0
DANIELS	1292	1252	40	3.1
DAWSON	5225	4998	227	4.3
DEER LODGE	6087	5595	492	8.1
FALLON	2015	1952	63	3.1
FERGUS	5538	5211	327	5.9
FLATHEAD	22778	20564	2214	9.7
GALLATIN	19554	18453	1101	5.6
GARFIELD	709	656	53	7.5
GLACIER	5309	4679	630	11.9
GOLDEN VALLEY	296	283	13	4.4
GRANITE	1448	1342	106	7.3
HILL	9150	7640	510	6.3
JEFFERSON	2141	1928	213	9.9
JUDITH BASIN	1084	908	176	16.2
LAKE	7933	7218	715	9.0
LEWIS AND CLARK	23601	21988	1613	6.8
LIBERTY	947	896	51	5.4
LINCOLN	7619	6598	1021	13.4
MC CONE	991	952	39	3.9
MADISON	1869	1785	84	4.5
MEAGHER	875	817	58	6.6
MINERAL	1564	1354	210	13.4
MISSOULA	37524	34400	3124	8.3
MUSSELSHELL	1583	1524	59	3.7
PARK	5589	5050	539	9.6
PETROLEUM	243	236	7	2.9
PHILLIPS	2392	2258	134	5.6
PONDERA	3123	2924	199	6.4
POWDER RIVER	973	939	34	3.5
POWELL	4021	3743	278	6.9
PRAIRIE	697	652	45	6.5
RAVALLI	7648	6801	847	11.1
RICHLAND	4918	4741	177	3.6
ROOSEVELT	4491	4227	264	5.9
ROSEBUD	4101	3817	284	6.9
SANDERS	3637	3264	373	10.3
SHERIDAN	2332	2286	46	2.0
SILVER BOW	16976	15542	1434	8.4
STILLWATER	1958	1823	135	6.9
SWEET GRASS	1424	1396	28	2.0
TETON	2492	2344	148	5.9
TOOLE	2622	2439	183	7.0
TREASURE	372	351	21	5.6
VALLEY	4413	4066	347	7.9
WHEATLAND	1082	1054	28	2.6
WIBAUX	587	566	21	3.6

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

February 1979

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:		Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
	Feb. 1979 1/	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	February 1979		January 1979	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	124.8	123.3	115.1	-1.5	6.7	270.6	*45.0*	271.2	*45.5*
Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	2.6	0	.5	26.6	*11.6*	26.6	*11.7*
Mining	.4	.4	.3	0	.1	7.5	*5.3*	7.5	*5.3*
Contract Construction	1.3	1.3	1.0	0	.3	13.3	*9.8*	13.4	*9.7*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.1	4.1	3.7	0	.4	21.5	*19.1*	21.5	*19.1*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	35.6	35.7	30.5	-.1	5.1	70.1	*50.8*	70.3	*50.8*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.3	8.3	7.7	0	.6	12.6	*65.9*	12.2	*68.0*
Services	34.6	34.5	34.0	.1	.6	51.4	*67.3*	51.5	*67.0*
Government 2/	34.4	35.9	35.3	-1.5	-.9	67.6	*50.9*	68.3	*52.6*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	114.7	115.0	116.9	119.5	120.8	123.8	121.3	122.1	120.4	122.2	122.3	127.7	120.6
Manufacturing	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	31.2	32.2	33.2	33.7	32.9	35.3	35.5	35.3	35.2	38.5	33.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.0
Services	33.8	34.0	33.4	35.2	35.4	37.6	36.6	34.0	34.3	34.1	34.3	35.2	34.8
Government	34.9	35.3	35.5	35.7	35.8	35.6	34.6	35.4	33.7	35.6	35.8	37.2	35.4

1979

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	126.7
Manufacturing.....	3.1
Mining	.4
Contract Construction.....	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	4.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	8.4
Services.....	35.0
Government.....	35.7

1/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1978 Benchmark. Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*

Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS

1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.8
May	102.4
June	101.7
July	101.3
August	101.8
September	102.6
October	101.1
November	98.8
December	102.5
1979	
January	99.9
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

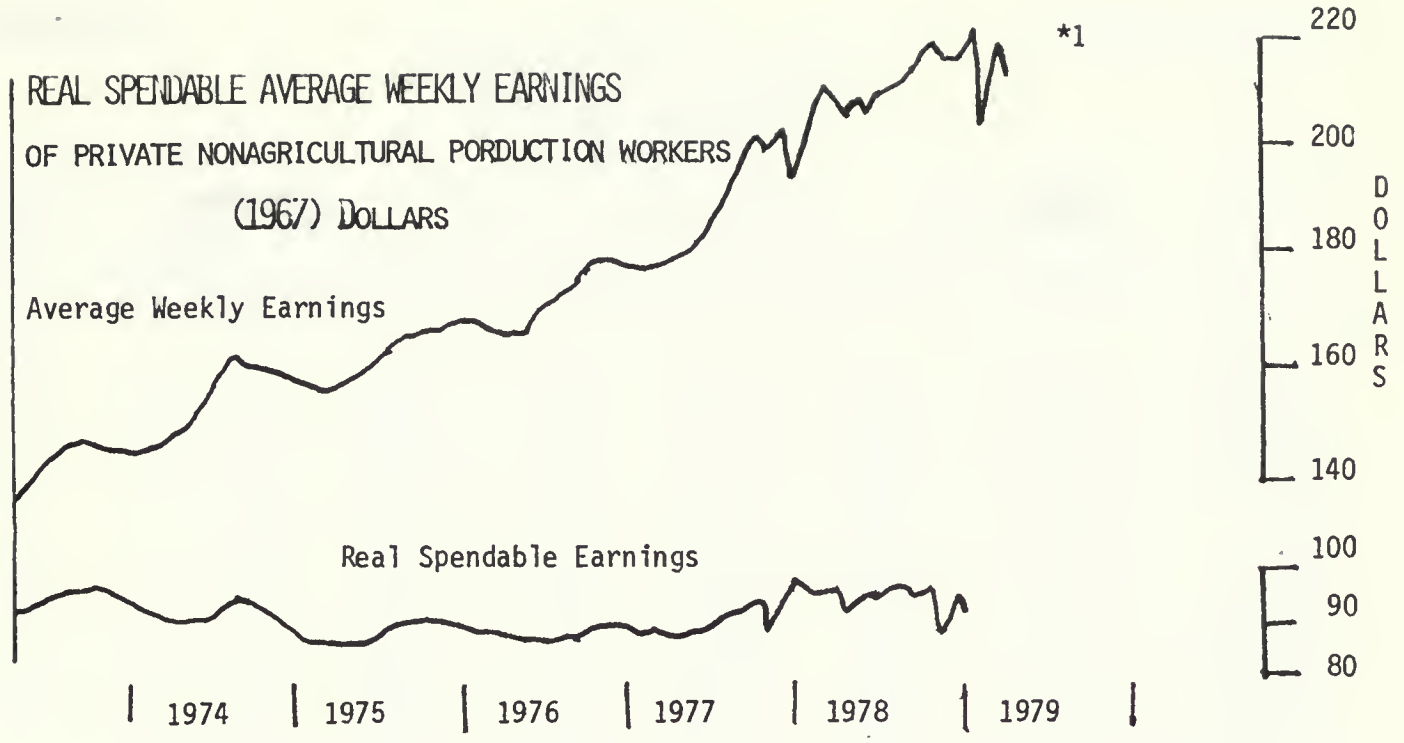
MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

The composite index of six economic indicators fell in January after a sharp rebound in December. The holiday season gave way to renewed cold weather which probably had the negative influence on the index. Initial claims were up substantially due mostly to the severe weather conditions, while building permits dropped again.

The erratic movement of the composite index gives little indication of any trend. About the only prediction that could be made from the annual movements is for continued stable, but slow growth in Montana.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1978
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	215.42	217.56	205.19
Taxes Withheld	34.83	35.21	31.69
Spendable Earnings	180.59	182.35	173.50
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	92.37	92.48	80.83
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	88.22	89.87	92.67

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1978		
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.	215.27	90.81
Oct.	218.40	91.15
Nov.	200.99	84.45
Dec.	217.56	89.87
1979		
Jan.	215.42	88.23
Feb.		
Mar.		
Apr.		
May		
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Gross wages dropped slightly in January after the gains noted in December. The drop of $2.14 in the gross calculation was reflected by only a $1.65 decline in the real spendable figure.

The upward spiral of inflation, as reflected in the Consumer Price Index, continues to have a impact on the Real Spendable calculation. While gross wages have risen by about 5% in the past twelve months since last January, the computation for Real Spendable Earnings has dropped by 4.8%. The persistent high rates of inflation certainly cloud an otherwise optimistic economic outlook.

* *Indicates Last Month of Plotted Data* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XII

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2/]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1/] Montana	Percent[1/] U. S.	
1977								
January	336.8	315.4	281.4	34.0	21.4	6.3	7.4	*
February	338.6	316.6	281.8	34.8	22.0	6.5	7.6	*
March	339.1	316.8	281.9	34.9	22.3	6.6	7.4	.1
April	339.8	317.5	282.0	35.5	22.3	6.6	7.1	*
May	342.4	319.3	284.4	34.9	23.1	6.7	7.1	*
June	339.5	319.8	284.8	35.0	19.7	5.8	7.1	.1
July	343.7	321.8	286.6	35.2	21.9	6.4	6.9	3.4
August	352.0	329.5	294.7	34.8	22.5	6.4	7.0	.2
September	353.1	330.4	296.3	34.1	22.7	6.4	6.8	.1
October	349.4	327.0	293.3	33.7	22.4	6.4	6.8	.4
November	350.3	328.2	294.6	33.6	22.1	6.3	6.7	.3
December	355.1	333.5	299.9	33.6	21.6	6.1	6.3	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	359.8	337.4	304.0	33.4	22.4	6.2	6.3	*
February	362.6	340.4	306.7	33.7	22.2	6.1	6.1	*
March	367.3	343.8	310.2	33.6	23.5	6.4	6.2	*
April	369.6	348.0	314.7	33.3	21.6	5.8	6.1	*
May	372.7	351.2	318.1	33.1	21.5	5.8	6.1	.1
June	374.8	352.8	319.8	33.0	22.0	5.9	5.8	.4
July	375.8	353.6	320.7	32.9	22.2	5.9	6.1	.2
August	371.1	349.3	316.6	32.7	21.8	5.9	5.9	.1
September	372.4	350.8	318.2	32.6	21.6	5.8	5.9	.1
October	370.6	350.0	317.4	32.6	20.6	5.6	5.8	.1
November	372.8	350.7	318.0	32.7	22.1	5.9	5.8	.1
December	370.5	347.9	315.1	32.8	22.6	6.1	5.9	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	.1
1979								
January	377.4	354.9	322.2	32.7	22.5	6.0	5.8	*
February	377.4	358.8	325.8	33.0	18.6	4.9	5.7	1.0
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.3	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.0	6.1	6.5	*
March	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.6	*
April	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.0	6.6	*
May	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.7	*
June	32.8	31.0	29.6	1.4	1.8	5.4	5.8	*
July	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.3	6.4	.8
August	33.5	31.3	29.9	1.4	2.2	6.7	6.4	*
September	34.2	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.4	*
October	34.0	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	.3
November	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	6.3	6.3	.3
December	34.5	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.1	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.4	.1
1978								
January	34.5	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.5	7.1	6.2	*
February	35.1	32.5	31.2	1.3	2.6	7.3	6.1	*
March	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.4	*
April	35.9	32.8	31.5	1.3	3.1	8.5	5.8	*
May	36.1	33.0	31.7	1.3	3.1	8.6	5.8	*
June	35.9	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.5	6.8	5.9	*
July	36.0	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.9	*
August	36.0	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.4	6.7	5.9	*
September	36.2	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.5	7.0	5.8	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.6	*
November	36.2	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.8	7.7	5.9	*
December	36.1	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.9	8.0	6.1	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	6.8	6.0	*
1979								
January	36.2	33.5	32.2	1.3	2.7	7.4	6.0	*
February	36.4	34.1	32.8	1.3	2.3	6.3	4.9	*
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
February	50.0	47.5	45.9	1.6	2.5	5.1	6.5	*
March	50.2	47.8	46.2	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.6	*
April	49.9	47.4	45.7	1.7	2.5	5.0	6.6	*
May	50.5	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.8	5.5	6.7	*
June	50.0	48.1	46.5	1.6	1.9	3.9	5.8	*
July	50.5	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.3	4.6	6.4	*
August	51.6	49.2	47.6	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
September	52.1	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.5	4.9	6.4	*
October	51.2	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.6	5.1	6.4	*
November	51.9	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.3	*
December	52.4	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.4	4.5	6.1	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
1978								
January	52.7	50.1	48.6	1.5	2.6	5.0	6.2	*
February	53.2	50.7	49.1	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.1	*
March	54.1	51.2	49.6	1.6	2.9	5.4	6.4	*
April	54.2	51.8	50.2	1.6	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
May	54.2	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.5	4.7	5.8	*
June	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
July	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
August	54.0	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.9	*
September	54.7	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
October	54.2	52.1	50.6	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.6	*
November	55.1	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.8	5.2	5.9	*
December	54.1	51.5	50.0	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.1	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
1979								
January	54.6	52.0	50.5	1.5	2.6	4.7	6.0	*
February	55.0	52.9	51.4	1.5	2.1	3.7	4.9	*
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979
TOTAL PRIVATE	$215.51	$215.42	$209.10	35.1	35.2	35.5	$6.14	$6.12	$5.89
MANUFACTURING	341.85	346.48	323.79	42.1	42.1	43.0	8.12	8.23	7.53
Durable Goods	348.10	350.70	329.18	42.4	42.0	43.6	8.21	8.35	7.55
Primary Metal Industries	372.89	375.20	322.97	40.4	40.0	39.1	9.23	9.38	8.26
Nondurable Goods	329.47	336.71	312.42	41.6	42.3	41.6	7.92	7.96	7.51
Food and Kindred Products	255.59	259.78	254.04	41.9	41.9	43.8	6.10	6.20	5.80
MINING	460.55	459.58	336.15	49.1	49.1	40.5	9.38	9.36	8.30
Metal Mining	455.70	455.70	380.15	43.4	43.4	40.1	10.50	10.50	9.48
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	336.34	335.34	446.08	33.4	33.4	32.5	10.07	10.04	13.75
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	327.64	326.01	297.66	40.7	40.7	41.0	8.05	8.01	7.26
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	314.93	315.66	291.98	43.2	43.3	42.5	7.29	7.29	6.87
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	158.57	159.71	158.58	31.4	31.5	32.9	5.05	5.07	4.82
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	157.08	151.44	144.14	34.0	35.3	36.4	4.62	4.29	3.96
SERVICES	139.70	139.78	132.80	33.5	33.6	33.2	4.17	4.16	4.00

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

January 1979

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1978
MANUFACTURING	2.2	1.6	2.4	2.0	.1	1.3	2.6	1.8	3.5	1.5	.9	1.4	.2	.3	1.2
Durable Goods	1.5	1.4	2.6	1.3	.9	1.1	2.2	1.5	4.1	1.0	.8	1.2	.2	.3	1.9
Primary Metal Industries	1.0	2.4	.7	.5	.9	0	3.2	1.1	4.2	.9	.4	.3	.5	*	1.1
Nondurable Goods	3.5	2.3	2.0	3.1	1.5	1.6	3.3	2.5	2.3	2.5	1.3	2.0	.1	.4	*
MINING	4.3	2.2	1.2	4.1	1.8	.8	3.5	5.0	3.3	3.0	2.6	.8	0	1.3	1.4
Metal Mining	1.5	1.3	.9	.1	.1	.1	1.5	1.4	5.6	*	0	.1	0	0	4.3

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Year to Date 1979	Year to Date 1978
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	32	30	77	69
MINING	9	6	25	12
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	43	65	115	125
MANUFACTURING	12	19	40	36
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	21	24	48	38
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	75	113	201	209
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	39	48	99	95
SERVICES	107	120	264	249
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	13	3	16	4
STATE TOTAL	351	428	885	837

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
STATE OF MONTANA	351	428	885	837
GREAT FALLS SMSA	31	39	61	78
BILLINGS SMSA	56	75	155	141
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	24	32	57	61
Beaverhead	6	7	9	9
Deer Lodge	4	4	7	8
Granite	1	1	6	3
Madison	3	3	9	9
Powell	0	3	1	7
Silver Bow	10	14	25	25
BOZEMAN LMA	26	40	62	77
Gallatin	20	35	44	61
Meagher	1	1	2	2
Park	5	4	16	14
GLASGOW LMA	7	7	35	18
Daniels	2	0	3	2
Phillips	1	2	7	4
Roosevelt	1	2	8	5
Sheridan	2	0	6	2
Valley	1	3	11	5
GLENDIVE LMA	13	14	39	25
Dawson	3	2	8	9
Garfield	0	0	1	0
McCone	0	1	1	1
Prairie	0	1	3	4
Richland	10	10	25	11
Wibaux	0	0	1	0
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	13	14	29	31
Big Horn	4	7	6	11
Carbon	7	3	15	11
Stillwater	2	3	4	3
Sweet Grass	0	5	4	6

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
HAVRE LMA	12	14	26	26
Blaine	3	3	4	4
Hill	8	9	21	16
Liberty	1	2	1	6
HELENA LMA	23	37	80	62
Broadwater	5	1	6	1
Jefferson	0	5	6	7
Lewis and Clark	18	31	68	54
KALISPELL LMA	45	42	101	94
Flathead	21	30	64	63
Lake	9	7	15	21
Lincoln	15	5	22	10
LEWISTOWN LMA	10	7	18	14
Fergus	7	5	11	7
Golden Valley	0	0	0	0
Judith Basin	0	0	3	0
Musselshell	2	1	3	3
Petroleum	0	0	0	1
Wheatland	1	1	1	3
MILES CITY LMA	17	9	30	20
Carter	0	1	0	2
Custer	8	1	15	7
Fallon	5	0	7	1
Powder River	1	2	1	2
Rosebud	3	5	6	8
Treasure	0	0	1	0
MISSOULA LMA	53	74	157	147
Mineral	2	2	3	3
Missoula	41	53	117	111
Ravalli	8	15	29	24
Sanders	2	4	8	9
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	21	20	35	43
Chouteau	6	1	8	7
Glacier	3	8	8	12
Pondera	6	3	9	8
Teton	0	4	2	8
Toole	6	4	8	8

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

LAS-1590 DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
FEBRUARY 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	329	28,795.50
BIGHORN	367	32,521.24
BLAINE	247	18,279.14
BROADWATER	198	17,057.45
CARBON	407	39,206.15
CARTER	13	1,212.00
CASCADE	6,055	520,340.91
CHOUTEAU	133	10,702.60
CUSTER	547	49,739.70
DANIELS	18	1,201.00
DAWSON	276	25,534.21
DEER LODGE	1,037	90,159.93
FALLON	48	4,377.00
FERGUS	600	53,315.48
FLATHEAD	3,736	305,586.13
GALLATIN	2,080	171,513.08
GARFIELD	25	2,249.00
GLACIER	961	79,089.47
GOLDEN VALLEY	23	2,259.00
GRANITE	203	16,041.96
HILL	791	66,293.38
JEFFERSON	380	35,599.68
JUDITH BASIN	46	4,278.00
LAKE	1,347	111,967.49
LEWIS AND CLARK	3,019	267,348.07
LIBERTY	66	6,582.40
LINCOLN	1,695	134,713.82
MCCONE	26	2,506.00
MADISON	94	6,047.00
MEAGHER	110	7,778.35
MINERAL	371	31,460.32
MISSOULA	5,587	466,828.23
MUSSELSHELL	158	15,376.00
PARK	745	56,177.23
PETROLEUM	0	0.00
PHILLIPS	159	14,684.74
PONDERA	340	29,512.46
POWDER RIVER	20	1,963.00
POWELL	340	30,120.89
PRAIRIE	79	7,222.00
RAVALLI	1,557	120,057.14
RICHLAND	102	8,505.00
ROOSEVELT	281	20,386.71
ROSEBUD	361	32,286.37
SANDERS	706	56,191.21
SHERIDAN	40	3,724.00
SILVER BOW	3,106	266,001.57
STILLWATER	245	25,484.00
SWEET GRASS	28	2,560.17
TETON	286	23,759.41
TOOLE	341	28,324.82
TREASURE	46	4,100.32
VALLEY	397	33,429.32
WHEATLAND	25	2,160.00
WIBAUX	27	2,187.00
YELLOWSTONE	5,435	482,516.07
INTRASTATE	45,673	3,888,387.54
INTERSTATE	1,934	173,182.95
TOTAL	47,607	4,061,570.49

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1979 THRU FEBRUARY 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	685	60,732.01
BIGHORN	718	62,906.94
BLAINE	533	41,176.27
BROADWATER	349	31,337.35
CARBON	790	75,391.49
CARTER	33	2,968.00
CASCADE	12,308	1,074,351.15
CHOUTEAU	302	24,144.92
CUSTER	1,214	109,440.01
DANIELS	53	3,268.00
DAWSON	582	53,112.21
DEER LODGE	2,189	190,939.52
FALLON	86	7,681.00
FERGUS	1,225	107,316.07
FLATHEAD	7,497	616,016.46
GALLATIN	4,241	351,956.77
GARFIELD	58	4,826.00
GLACIER	1,993	164,323.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	32	3,127.00
GRANITE	400	33,181.73
HILL	1,548	130,734.84
JEFFERSON	795	75,826.42
JUDITH BASIN	87	8,233.00
LAKE	2,617	218,936.23
LEWIS AND CLARK	6,478	575,634.73
LIBERTY	147	14,069.40
LINCOLN	3,440	273,041.63
MCCONE	64	6,368.00
MADISON	205	14,700.00
MEAGHER	241	17,516.16
MINERAL	743	62,507.53
MISSOULA	10,937	916,990.62
MUSSELSHELL	268	25,272.00
PARK	1,723	130,277.92
PETROLEUM	1	104.00
PHILLIPS	403	36,971.24
PONDERA	734	65,675.08
POWDER RIVER	55	5,281.00
POWELL	803	68,883.65
PRAIRIE	156	15,099.00
RAVALLI	3,147	243,453.41
RICHLAND	268	22,771.00
ROOSEVELT	667	48,365.64
ROSEBUD	838	75,576.00
SANDERS	1,352	107,231.04
SHERIDAN	97	8,849.00
SILVER BOW	6,283	539,131.25
STILLWATER	497	50,642.00
SWEET GRASS	67	6,149.73
TETON	556	46,735.46
TOOLE	765	64,565.31
TREASURE	83	7,069.96
VALLEY	1,005	83,898.95
WHEATLAND	63	5,913.00
WIBAUX	45	3,563.00
YELLOWSTONE	10,736	962,352.29
INTRASTATE	93,227	7,959,644.48
INTERSTATE	3,848	367,139.26
TOTAL	97,075	8,326,783.74

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1979	1978	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	12,914	11,538	1,376	*11.9*
Continued Claims[1/]	114,502	112,784	1,718	*1.5*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	97,075	90,878	6,197	*6.8*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$8,326,783	$7,360,396	$966,387	*13.1*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$89.39	$86.26	$3.13	*3.6*

MONTHLY

	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	4,654	8,260	4,552	102	*2.2*
Continued Claims[1/]	53,686	60,816	57,873	-4,187	*-7.2*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	47,607	49,468	46,664	943	*2.0*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$4,061,570	$4,265,213	$3,734,505	$327,065	*8.8*
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$89.08	$89.69	$84.22	$4.86	*5.8*
Trust Fund Balance	$1,394,442*	$2,057,948*	-$6,104,195**	$7,498,637	*122.8*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $10,484,089*
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $9,284,089*

Initial claims during February were considerably fewer than the normally high count for January, the first month of the new benefit year for many people. A slight rise was noted from last February, and the year-to-date total for 1979 was also up from 1978. The number of continued claims was lower this month than both last month and last year, but increased 1.5% from the year ago total for January and February.

The number and amount of benefits paid decreased this month from January but showed a moderate advance from February a year ago. The cumulative total for the year was also above the first two months of 1978, reflecting the expanded benefit amount, and the larger number of payments in January.

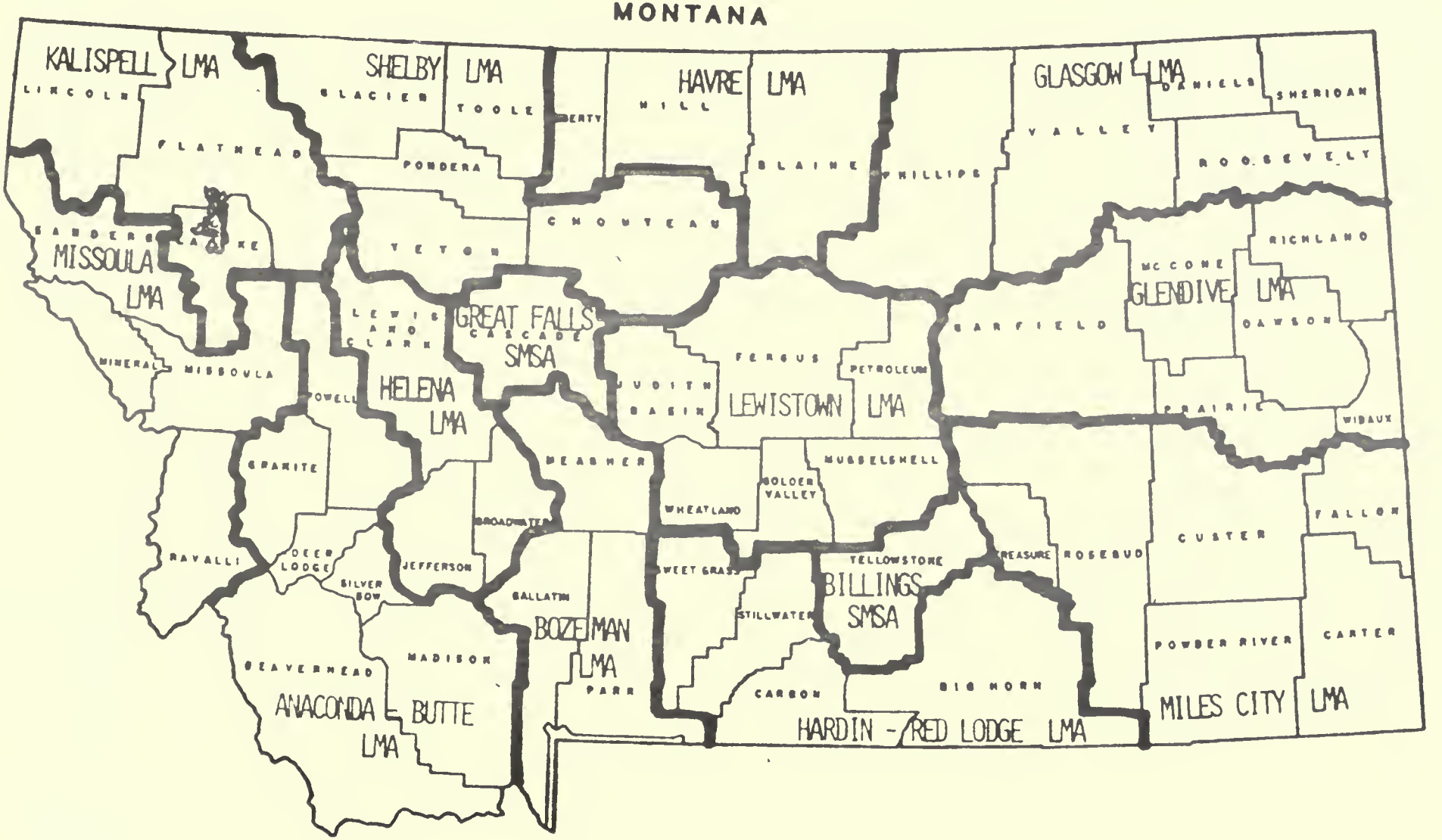
The Average Weekly Benefit Amount (AWBA) in February was a trifle less than in January but substantially higher than a year ago. The year-to-date AWBA gained 3.6% from the comparable period a year ago.

In February the Trust Fund balance shrank further from the January total, but compared very favorably with the deficit fund of a year ago. Contributions from the fourth quarter of 1978 are included in this balance but because this is the smallest contributions collection and the largest benefit payments period of the year, the Trust Fund will probably continue a downward trend for another month or two.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
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POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.

LABOR MARKET AREAS
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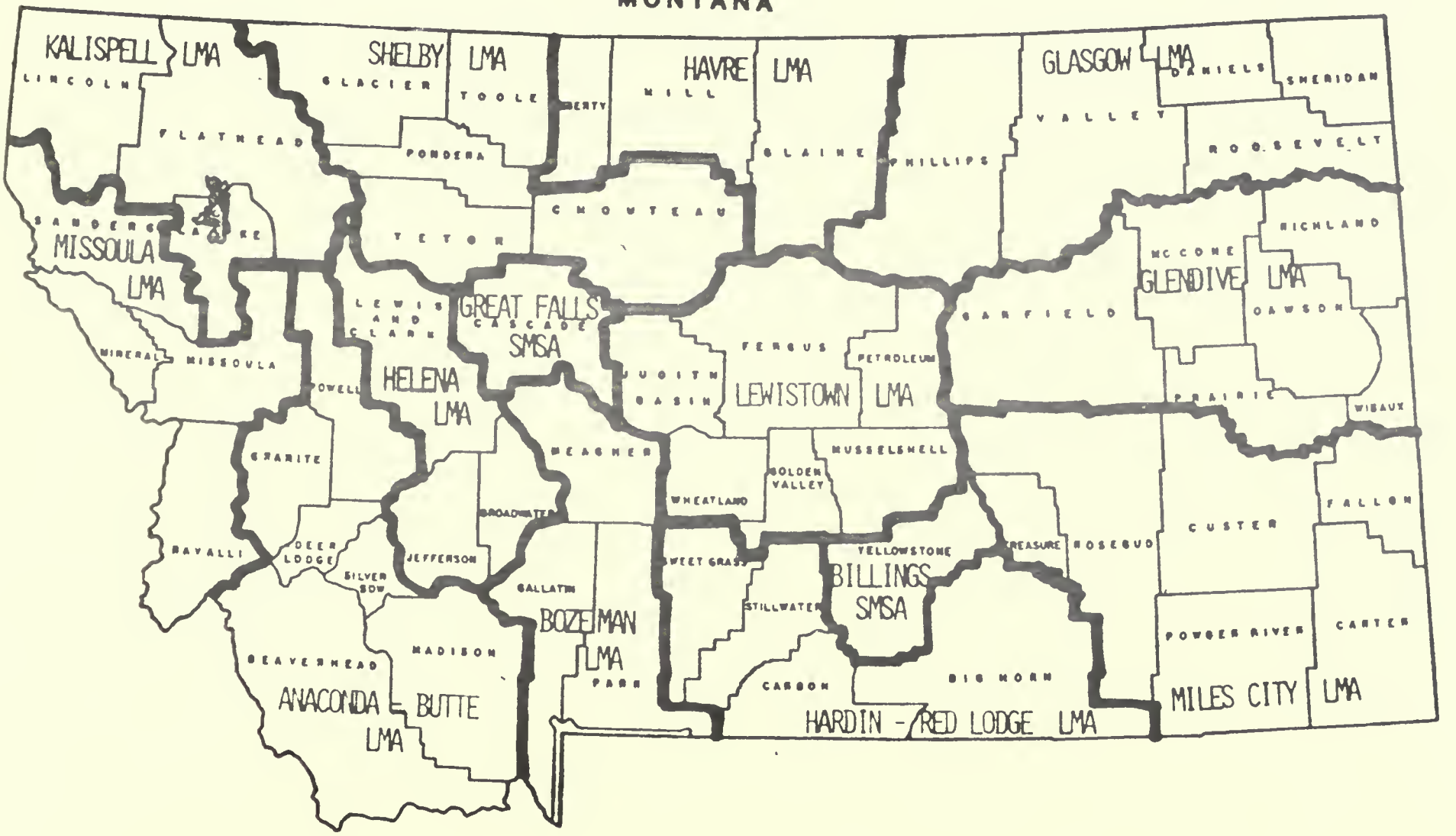

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